



## Mock United Nations Session held in Kathmandu



UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper giving away the first prize shield to St. Xavier college in the UN Mock Session organized in the capital in cooperation with UNIC.

Photo: UNIC

**Kathmandu 31 August:** The Drama and Debating Club of Budhanilkantha School, in association with UN Information Centre organized **Mock United Nations Session and Panel Discussion** on

Sunday, 31 August at the Russian Cultural Center, Kamalpokhari. The Chief Guest of the program was UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal, Mr. Robert Piper

A total of seven schools participated in the Mock UN Session and six colleges of

the valley took part in the Panel Discussion. Around 250 students representing the 75 districts of Nepal were present in the program.

The United Nations has a very crucial role to play at this historic juncture in landing Nepal safely in the path of prosperity. It becomes even more important for the youth who are considered to be the controller of the present and determinants of the future of any country to have a clear understanding of the functioning of United Nations as an organization and its crucial role developmental and humanitarian role in Nepal.

By organizing this program the club was looking forward to increase student's awareness towards the activities of the United Nations and to foster the ability to debate and discuss in a formal manner. It also aimed to make the participants and audience aware of the finesse of international protocol followed in diplomatic channels.

The Club was established in 1995 A.D with the aim of encouraging the students to give the outflow to their skills in drama and debating. The Club has been conducting similar programs in the past years. The Club had organized the first ever Mock SAARC session, as well as Mock Parliament and Mock UN Session.

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## United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific opens in Nepal



Chairman of the Constituent Assembly Mr. Subas Nembang of Nepal (left) and Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General unveiling the plaque of UNODA. Photo: UNIC

**KATHMANDU 18 August:** A ceremony marking the opening of the new office in Nepal of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and

the Pacific was held in Kathmandu on 18 August 2008. The ceremony was attended by Chairman of the constituent Assembly Mr. Subas Nembang of Nepal, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General, and other senior government officials of Nepal, members of the diplomatic corps, as well as representatives from regional organizations and civil society.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a congratulatory message which was delivered by Mr. Nambiar. In his message, the Secretary-General praised the Regional Centre for its role in promoting openness, transparency and confidence-building, and in providing an arena for dialogue on regional security concerns on issues such as nuclear proliferation, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the hazards of landmines and explosive remnants of war, the horrendous human and financial cost of armed conflicts, and the rise of organized crime and terrorism in the region. The event was followed by a press conference organized by UNIC.

**New York 15 August:** The Secretary-General has warmly congratulated Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) on his election as the first Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. He called on all parties to cooperate with the new Government in order to carry forward Nepal's peace process.

### Nepal's peace process showcased at UN headquarters



UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon observing an exhibition on Nepal in New York. Photo: UNMIN

**New York, 6 August:** A multimedia exhibition entitled "Towards an Inclusive Peace: United Nations Support to Nepal's Peace Process" was launched at the United Nations in New York on Wednesday, 6 August by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN, Madhuban Prasad Paudel.

The exhibit uses photographs, video and artifacts to trace UN assistance in the context of major developments in Nepal's peace process, starting with the Jana Andolan of April 2006 and leading up to the first session of the newly elected Constituent Assembly in May 2008. It also pays tribute to UN staff and others who died tragically after the helicopter crash in Ramechhap district on 3 March this year.

"Nepal has taken dramatic steps in its transition to peace," the Secretary-General said in his opening remarks. "The United Nations has been privileged to play a supporting role in a peace process fully owned and led by the Nepalese."

### Information Working Group (IWG) meeting held



IWG Meeting in progress: Photo: UNIC

**Kathmandu 28 August:** The Information Working Group (IWG) meeting was held on Thursday 28 August in UNIC. On the occasion, Mr. Minar Pimple, Deputy Director (Asia) of UN Millennium Campaign, Bangkok on UN High Level Event on MDG Stand Up and Take Action Event, also participated and briefed the IWG on possible events to observe the Stand Up and Take Action Event from 17 to 19 October 2008. He also appraised about the forthcoming UN High Level Event on MDG to be held in UN HQs in New York on 25 September this year and solicited stories/

briefed IWG on various aspects of the UN Radio Project which will be operational from 1 October 2008. He said the role of IWG in the radio programmes will be that of the Editorial Board.

reports of achievements from UN agencies.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Robert Piper, who chaired the meeting in the capacity of UNIC Director,

UNIC Information Officer, Ram Babu Shah gave an update on possible activities to be considered by the IWG in connection with the marking of the International Peace Day which is on 21 September 2008.

### Rural Energy lights up 239 households of a remote village



Buddhilal Jimba, 67, working for electrification - a better tomorrow. Photo: UNDP



The 24 kilowatt micro-hydro project supported by the UNDP Rural Energy Development Programme as brought electricity to 239 households of remote Dandagaun village benefiting a total of 1534 people. Tamangs and Magars (indigenous peoples) make up the majority of the population in this village, 65 ms away from Dhulikhel- the district headquarter. The villagers in Dandagaun can only survive for six months with their own farm production and have to go to the nearby cities such as Banepa, Kathmandu and Hetauda to earn their living for the rest of the year. The men and women can start their own business (mills, electrical shops), children can study for more hours at night, adult literacy classes have started and most of the houses in the village now have television! The villagers appreciate the technical and financial support made by the District Development Committee, the District Energy and Environment Section supported by the Government of Nepal, UNDP and the World Bank.



Photo of the Month



Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet of UN Secretary General addressing UN staff in UN House, Kathmandu.  
Photo: UNIC



Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet of UN Secretary General conferring with Chairman of the Constituent Assembly Mr. Subas Nembang (left) in the UN House. Photo UNIC



A press Conference on the occasion of the opening of the Regional Centre for Peace & Disarmament in progress in UNIC.  
Photo: UNIC



Participants of a UN Mock Session which was participated by seven schools and six colleges of Kathmandu.  
Photo: UNIC



An Information Working Group meeting in progress in UNIC.  
Photo UNIC



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNIC Director Mr. Robert Piper moderating a mock UN session panel discussion by college students on 31 August. Photo: UNIC

## Report/Development

**OHCHR trains police officers on human rights**

**Kathmandu 18 August:** the United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) conducted a Training of Trainers for Police Officers in Kathmandu from 18-22 August 2008. Twenty five police officers who had the potential to become lead trainers on human rights in their respective duty stations were chosen as trainees. In the week-long training, there were review sessions on human rights standards relevant to law enforcement officials, sessions on training skills and presentations. In his closing remarks, Richard Bennett, the Representative of the High Commissioner for Human

Rights, said that OHCHR was happy with its cooperation with Nepal Police on this training program and the true test of its lasting value would be in the implementation of the knowledge and skill acquired.

Also speaking on the occasion, Head of Nepal Police Human Right Cell, SSP Binod Singh said, "Rules of Law is fundamental to lasting and self – sustaining peace, and the competent, professional police are essential to rules of law, more so to smoothen the situation of transition from conflict to peace that produces safe and stable society." OHCHR was very prominent in monitoring street protests during the April 2006 Janaandolan. In the context of peace building, OHCHR-Nepal's work has changed to reflect the shift. Though the office still monitors, investigates and reports on human rights abuses, it now focuses particularly on institution strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), other national institutions, government offices and civil society. The Office has, so far, completed nearly 300 trainings. Another focus of the office is on working to ensure respect for Economic, Social and Cultural rights, such as the rights to food, to adequate standards of living and to education.



Mr. Richard Bennett, the Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal.  
(File Photo)

**UNFPA: Health workers are crucial to identify address gender based violence**

Training on Gender Based Violence for Health Service Providers. Photo: UNFPA

The National Health Training Center (MoHP) with the support of UNFPA Nepal, and in partnership with Paropkar Maternity and Women's Hospital (Prashuti Griha), organized Training of Trainers from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August on treatment of gender based violence cases identified among health service clients.

According to Mr. Arjun Bahadur Singh, Director of the National Health Training Centre, 'Neglecting a social issue such as gender based violence will be reflected in slowing down of other aspects of the country's development.'

For the last two years, UNFPA has been supporting the National Health Training Center to integrate geTraining on Gender Based Violence for Health Service Providers

**Environment Friendly Mobile Public Toilet brought into operation in Nepal**

Chief and Executive Officer of Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan City Mr. Krishna Prasad Devkota. Photo: UN-HABITAT

The provision of public toilet which used to be a prime concern for municipalities in Nepal has become today's necessity. However, these municipalities are being unable to manage it due to unavailability of vacant land which has delimited the service to certain areas.

Considering the difficulties that people are facing due to lack of public toilets, Centre for Energy Studies (CES), Institute of Engineering and Kantipur Research Academy with technical and financial support of UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal constructed a Mobile Public Toilet along with the disposal of waste for biogas generation. The constructed toilet has been handed over to the Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City for its operation.



Model of Mobile Toilet

**Urban Environmental Management Guideline under preparation in Nepal**

Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) with support of UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme Nepal have drafted the Nepal's first Urban Environmental Management Guideline. In the lack of proper strategy the country is facing the degradation in its urban environment since last few decades. The guideline has been designed to systematize urban infrastructural development and minimize environmental pollution in the urban zone.







Some of the many displaced by floods in the eastern Terai districts.

**Kathmandu, 28 August:** Heavy flooding by the Saptakoshi River in Sunsari and Saptari districts in Eastern Region continues to impact an increasing number of families who have been displaced and lost their lands and houses. The challenges to help the families will grow more in the coming weeks as the number of affected persons in need of assistance has grown to more than 70,000 in the past 10 days.

The United Nations (UN) in Nepal lauds the efforts made by the Government of Nepal, business community, civil society, NGOs and international community to provide humanitarian relief to the flood-affected families.

"The UN extends its heart felt sympathies to the affected families. I also want to pay tribute to the Government at the central and local level for its rapid response to manage and coordinate the relief effort. The UN and its humanitarian partners are ready to support these efforts with expertise and resources as needed" said Robert Piper, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal. He explained that several UN agencies

have been on the ground involved and supporting relief activities from Day One.

The Humanitarian Coordinator also voiced concerns about reports that the aid operation has been hampered by insecurity, both in the affected area and further West where food convoys are being delayed by disruptions on the roads. "The movement of humanitarian personnel and goods should not be hampered in any way" added Mr. Piper, calling on all parties to respect humanitarian principles to ensure that relief reaches those who need it most. He also called on the authorities to ensure measures are taken to protect the displaced themselves, particularly women and children living in vulnerable camp conditions. The United Nations and its NGO partners have deployed a range of resources to support the efforts of local Government to meet immediate needs. Coordinated by field staff of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) based out of temporary Information Centres in Inaruwa and Rajbiraj. The World Food Programme (WFP) with financial support from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), is providing an initial 15-day food basket consisting of rice, pulses, salt and vegetable oil to



50,000 flood victims and is putting in place food supplies for up to 30 days for families unable to return to their homes.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has committed US\$ 100,000 for fodder, feed and vaccination of flood affected animals, and for a rapid assessment of the needs for rehabilitation of agriculture.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided water purifying products to meet the needs of 25,000 people for a month and hygiene kits for 50,000 people. Hand pumps, latrines and garbage facilities are being provided throughout the camps as well as private bathing spaces for women and girls. A nutritional response is being coordinated and 13,000 oral re-hydration salts have been provided for children suffering from diarrhea, while 8,000 family-size insecticide nets will be distributed. Protection and psycho-social support is being provided for vulnerable children and measures are being put in place to re-establish education.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided Emergency Health Kits, to meet the needs of 40,000 people for 3 months, as well as supplies to assist with Malaria, Diarrhea and other emergency medicines for up to 50,000 cases

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has delivered Clean Health Delivery Kits, Hygiene kits and other supplies to meet the needs of some 3,000 people. UNFPA medical staff are also deployed in the District with a Mobile Reproductive Health Unit and have provided Reproductive Health Services to more than 12,000 people in temporary camps with their district partners. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided logistics support to the Ministry of Home Affairs to move relief items from Kathmandu to Bhadrapur. An IOM expert in camp management has also been deployed in the last 24 hours.

## UN Events Calendar (September)

### 08 Sept 2008: International Literacy Day

Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all – children, youth and adults - is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever moving target. A combination of ambitious goals, insufficient and parallel efforts, inadequate resources and strategies, and continued underestimation of the magnitude and complexity of the task accounts for this unmet goal.

Website: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/literacy>

### 14 Sept 2008: International Day For The Preservation Of The Ozone Layer

On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed. States are invited to devote the Day each year to promote, at the national level, activities in accordance with the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

### 15 Sept 2008: International Day Of Democracy

Stressing the continuing need to promote democratization, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the General Assembly agreed on 08 November 2007 to observe 15 September each year as the International Day of Democracy. In adopting by consensus a resolution on the issue, the 192-member body reaffirmed that "while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region."



### 21 Sept 2008: International Day Of Peace

The International Day of Peace was first established in 1981 by a resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session every September. In 2001 the resolution 55/282 was strengthened to fix the date annually on 21 September and for it to be a day of nonviolence and cease-fire. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Member States of the General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/peaceflag/whatis.html>



## UN Resource Materials



## UN Nepal

**ADB**

<http://www.adb.org>

**FAO**

<http://www.fao.org>

**ILO**

<http://www.ilo.org>

**IMF**

<http://www.imf.org>

**OHCHR**

<http://nepal.ohchr.org>

**OCHA**

<http://www.un.org.np>

**UNAIDS**

<http://www.unaids.org>

**UNCDF**

<http://www.uncdf.org/nepal>

**UNDP**

<http://www.undp.org.np>

**UNESCO**

<http://www.unesco.org/kathmandu>

**UNFPA**

<http://www.unfpanepal.org>

**UN-HABITAT**

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

**UNHCR**

<http://www.unhcr.org>

**UNIC**

<http://kathmandu.unic.org>

**UNICEF**

<http://www.unicef.org>

**UNIFEM**

<http://www.unifem.org>

**UNMIN**

<http://www.unmin.org.np>

**UNODC**

<http://www.unodc.org>

**UNV**

<http://www.unv.org>

**WB**

<http://www.worldbank.org>

**WFP**

<http://www.wfp.org>

**WHO**

<http://www.nep.searo.who.int>

**Comments or Suggestions****United Nations Information Centre | UNIC Kathmandu**

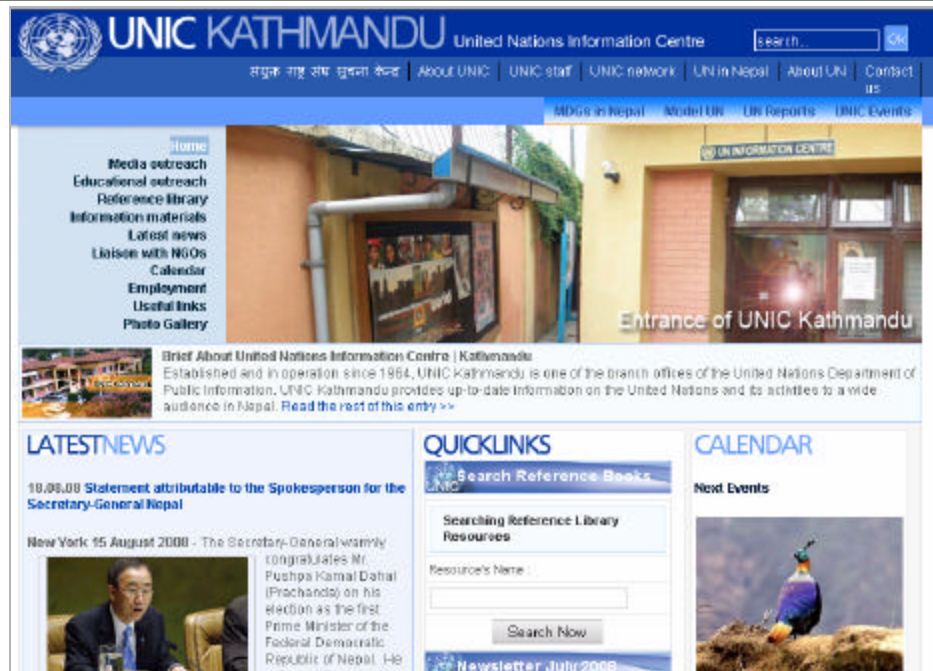
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**UNIC Kathmandu Online (<http://kathmandu.unic.org>)****UNIC Catalogue**

In its constant endeavor to upgrade its service delivery with new and innovative approach through recent Information Technology, UNIC Kathmandu has implemented the electronics library system with internet facility to visitors as well as e-Catalogue for fast and efficient tracking of available contents in reference library.

This catalogue is available online for home users as well as for other individuals.

URL: [http://kathmandu.unic.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73](http://kathmandu.unic.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73)



UNIC Kathmandu is located in the UN House where most of the UN agencies in Nepal are also located. UNIC has a separate entrance for visitors to facilitate their access into the Centre - be it to consult the reference library;

to attend press conferences or for seeking information on UN related issues.

UNIC undertakes extensive press activities, such as organizing press conferences for visiting UN officials, and for other UN agencies located in Nepal. It helps to prepare joint statements for the UN Country Team on various important issues and disseminates statements of the UN Secretary-General and other press releases/news/articles/reports coming from UN Headquarters. It is fully accessible to media persons and visitors during office hours.